

# DELAWARE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD

The Townsend Building  
401 Federal Street, Suite 2  
Dover, Delaware 19901

## Meeting Minutes

The Department of Education  
The Cabinet Room

May 7, 2015  
5:04 P.M.

**Members Present:** Diane Albanese, Amber Augustus, Jennifer Burton, Stephanie DeWitt, Nelia Dolan, Laura Glass, Cristy Greaves, Darren Guido, David Kohan, Rosaria Macera, Byron Murphy, Darlene O'Neill, Mary Pinkston, Stephanie Smith and Sue Smith

**Members Absent:** Linda Brown

**Others Present:** Chris Kenton; PSB Executive Director, Terry Hickey; Deputy Attorney General, Kimberly Rodriguez; Secretary to PSB, Donna Johnson; Executive Director SBE, Wendy Modzelewski; DOE, Angeline Rivello; DOE, Deb Stevens; DSEA

### I. Opening

**Call to Order:** Mr. Murphy, Professional Standards Board Chair, called the meeting to Order at 5:04 p.m.

Mr. Murphy gave an introduction of the new Board members

1. Amber Augustus – Former Teacher of the Year – Smyrna School District
2. Sue Smith – School Nurse - Milford School District
3. Mrs. Hickey is substituting as Board Attorney for Ms. Geiszler

### Approval of Agenda

A motion was made to amend the order of the agenda and to move the discussion items to action items by Mr. Kohan and seconded by Dr. Greaves to approve the May 7, 2015 agenda. ***The motion carried*** (15 Yes to 0 No's - Albanese, Augustus, Burton, DeWitt, Dolan, Glass, Greaves, Guido, Kohan, Macera, Murphy, O'Neill, Pinkston, Smith and Smith)

### Approval of Minutes for April 1, 2015

A motion was made by Dr. Greaves and seconded by Ms. Macera to approve the April 1, 2015 Minutes. ***The motion carried*** (15 Yes to 0 No's - Albanese, Augustus, Burton, DeWitt, Dolan, Glass, Greaves, Guido, Kohan, Macera, Murphy, O'Neill, Pinkston, Smith and Smith)

#### **Approval of the Executive Session Minutes for April 1, 2015 - PSB File No. 2014-01**

A motion was made by Dr. Greaves and seconded by Dr. Guido to approve the PSB File No. 2014-01 Executive Session Minutes. *The motion carried* (15 Yes to 0 No's - Albanese, Augustus, Burton, DeWitt, Dolan, Glass, Greaves, Guido, Kohan, Macera, Murphy, O'Neill, Pinkston, Smith and Smith)

#### **Approval of the Executive Session Minutes for April 1, 2015 - PSB File No. 2014-02**

A motion was made by Ms. Pinkston and seconded by Mr. Kohan to approve the PSB File No. 2014-02 Executive Session Minutes. *The motion carried* (15 Yes to 0 No's - Albanese, Augustus, Burton, DeWitt, Dolan, Glass, Greaves, Guido, Kohan, Macera, Murphy, O'Neill, Pinkston, Smith and Smith)

#### **Approval of the Executive Session Minutes for April 1, 2015 - PSB File No. 2014-04**

A motion was made by Ms. Albanese and seconded by Ms. Dewitt to approve the PSB File No. 2014-04 Executive Session Minutes. *The motion carried* (15 Yes to 0 No's - Albanese, Augustus, Burton, DeWitt, Dolan, Glass, Greaves, Guido, Kohan, Macera, Murphy, O'Neill, Pinkston, Smith and Smith)

## **II. Public Comment**

None

## **III. Executive Director's Report**

- Attended a conference in Nashville, TN with Christopher Ruszkowski and Donna Johnson to discuss educator compensation
- Was able to see what small districts in TN were doing to increase compensation for their schools
- Met with Secretary Murphy. Would like to stay up to date with the Professional Standards Board and had some discussions on the upcoming regulations
- Presented the DASL Application to the State Board of Education. It was approved to move forward
- Went to VA to judge a national We The People middle school competition
- Attended the Delaware Showcase for Project Citizen
- Able to attend the Senate Confirmation for the two new board members
- Attended a virtual meeting for the ETS Praxis Client Conference
- Conversations with Maria Degnats and Erin Pieshala in the Licensure and Certification office regarding different teacher issues in PRAXIS
- Met with Mr. Murphy to discuss the May agenda
- Met with Kathleen Geiszler and Terry Hickey to review the upcoming regulations
- Had conversations with Shannon Holston regarding 1595
- There are currently 28 different Bills regarding education in Legislative Hall. HB117 would create a funding source for students who are enrolled in Delaware public schools who are determined as low income according to the Department of Education. They are trying to create more money for low income students.
- The Legislators have received numerous e-mails from parents to support HB50 referred to as the Opt Out Bill
- HB52 would mandate the teaching of cursive writing prior to the fourth grade

- HB90 would require all public school employees to receive 90 minutes of training each year on suicide prevention

#### IV. **Presentation**

- *A presentation was given by Mr. Ruszkowski, Chief Academic Officer TLEU*
- Ms. Cannon gave an update on the report for the Delaware Leadership Project. The DLP is an alternate to certification for Assistant Principals and Principals who complete the program.
- Secretary Duncan called all 50 States to come up with a plan around equity (excellent educators for all). The initiative is mostly called the Equity Plan.
- The Bill is currently in Congress in Washington, DC for ESEA reauthorization which eliminates HQT. This Bill made it through Congress and is on its way to the House.
- States and Districts will need to think of new ways to think about quality and qualified educators.
- The plan is due on June 1<sup>st</sup> and requires 6 items:
  - a. Have documentation that conversations were had with fellow Delawarean's
  - b. Identify equity gaps
  - c. Talk about what might be causing the gaps
  - d. How will the gaps be eliminated
  - e. Evaluate progress
  - f. Monitor and provide support on the issue
- There are three equity gaps that are identified in the Delaware context
  - a. Experience gap
  - b. Turnover gap
  - c. Performance gap
- Delaware currently has a two tiered system where public schools are persistently not admitting students with learning challenges
- Delaware provides large incentives for highly effective teachers in the building to stay and offered additional funding in school based grants to the schools to use how they want

#### V. **Action Items**

##### A. **1560 – Art Teacher**

- The Executive Director commented that this regulation is up for renewal
- There have been zero issues in the past five years
- Added a non-regulatory note to the regulation to make it clear to anyone looking at it that they must complete a Praxis exam in order to be certified
- ETS offers a content knowledge computer based Praxis exam test #5314 for Art teachers
- Only 22 teachers have taken the test and had their scores submitted to Delaware
- A motion was made to move 1560 to publication by Ms. Albanese and seconded by Dr. Smith. *The motion carried* (15 Yes to 0 No's - Albanese, Augustus, Burton, DeWitt, Dolan, Glass, Greaves, Guido, Kohan, Macera, Murphy, O'Neill, Pinkston, Smith and Smith)

##### B. **1563 – Music Teacher**

- The Executive Director commented that this regulation is up for renewal
- There have been zero issues in the past five years

- Added a non-regulatory note to the regulation to make it clear to anyone looking at it that they must complete a Praxis exam in order to be certified
- ETS offers a content knowledge computer based Praxis exam test #5313 for Music teachers
- In the past two years 72 people have taken the test and had their scores submitted to Delaware. Out of the 72, 66 have passed the test
- A motion was made to move 1563 to publication by Dr. Guido and seconded by Dr. Greaves. ***The motion carried*** (15 Yes to 0 No's - Albanese, Augustus, Burton, DeWitt, Dolan, Glass, Greaves, Guido, Kohan, Macera, Murphy, O'Neill, Pinkston, Smith and Smith)

**C. 1564 – Physical Education Teacher**

- The Executive Director commented that this regulation is up for renewal
- There have been zero issues in the past five years
- Added a non-regulatory note to the regulation to make it clear to anyone looking at it that they must complete a Praxis exam in order to be certified
- ETS offers a content knowledge computer based Praxis exam test #5091 for Physical Education Teachers
- Over the past two years 57 people have taken the test and submitted it to Delaware. Out of 57, 49 have passed the test  
A motion was made to move 1564 to publication by Mr. Kohan and seconded by Dr. Guido. ***The motion carried*** (15 Yes to 0 No's - Albanese, Augustus, Burton, DeWitt, Dolan, Glass, Greaves, Guido, Kohan, Macera, Murphy, O'Neill, Pinkston, Smith and Smith)

**D. 1559 – Skilled and Technical Science Teacher**

- The Executive Director commented that in February 1559 was already approved to move forward to Publication and was presented to the State Board. There have been some public comments that made the Board go back and review the regulation again. Mr. Rhine had a discussion with the Board in February regarding the initial changes. There are still some questions that need to be answered by Mr. Rhine. The Executive Director for the Board feels the regulation needs to be tabled until the questions are answered.  
A motion was made by Dr. Greaves to table 1559 until the June meeting and seconded by Ms. Dewitt. ***The motion carried*** (15 Yes to 0 No's - Albanese, Augustus, Burton, DeWitt, Dolan, Glass, Greaves, Guido, Kohan, Macera, Murphy, O'Neill, Pinkston, Smith and Smith)

**E. 1571 – Special Education Teacher of Students with Disabilities**

- The Executive Director commented that he spoke with Ms. Mieczkowski regarding the regulation. He commented that the Board has been concerned with the implementation of SB51. SB51 states that all applicants must pass a content knowledge exam including Special Education teachers. The Executive Director commented that they are looking for an implementation date of July 1, 2017 to give the teachers adequate time to get any additional requirements met that they would need.
- Should the special education teachers new and experienced be required to meet the requirements set forth in SB51?

- The Executive Director would like to move 1571 forward to publication.
  - Ms. Mieczkowski made comments regarding the legalities if you did not meet the legal requirement when evaluating a student and developing an IEP. Ms. Mieczkowski has a problem with grandfathering everyone in and feels that there are teachers who do not have the experience.
  - Comments were noted that moving the date to 2017 is giving the teachers two more years the teachers would be taking the Praxis II exam and people have known about the changes coming their way.
  - The Executive Director commented that when he met with the Licensure and Certification Department, and they commented that a lot of people did not know they had to meet additional requirements before graduation.
  - Questions were noted about giving people additional time.
- A motion was made by Dr. Smith to amend 1571 Special Education Teacher of Students with Disabilities to read effective July 1, 2016 and seconded by Ms. Burton. ***The motion carried*** (15 Yes to 0 No's - Albanese, Augustus, Burton, DeWitt, Dolan, Glass, Greaves, Guido, Kohan, Macera, Murphy, O'Neill, Pinkston, Smith and Smith)

A motion was made by Ms. Burton to move 1571 Special Education Teacher of Students with Disabilities as amended to publication and seconded by Dr. Greaves. ***The motion carried*** (15 Yes to 0 No's - Albanese, Augustus, Burton, DeWitt, Dolan, Glass, Greaves, Guido, Kohan, Macera, Murphy, O'Neill, Pinkston, Smith and Smith)

#### **F. 1595 – Certification Program for Leader in Education**

- The Executive Director commented that the DASL Application from the University of Delaware was approved. The application went to the State Board for approval. Secretary Murphy announced that he was in support of and approved two cohorts for the University of Delaware
- A proposed change on the way these types of programs will be approved in Delaware.
- The proposed changes would change the process in how they are approved and how they go through the renewal process. The program will submit the application to the PSB Executive Director where he would go through the 17 page rubric for completion and submit it to the LCCC for approval. If it is approved, it will come before the Professional Standards Board for approval. In the new regulation it would then be submitted to the Secretary of Education for approval. The State Board of Education will be taken out of the initial approval process. When the program is up for renewal years later, the program will send a renewal request directly to the Secretary of Education. The Secretary of Education will approve it and send it to the State Board for final approval.

A motion was made to move 1595 to publication with the typo fixed by Dr. Greaves and seconded by Dr. Guido. ***The motion carried*** (15 Yes to 0 No's - Albanese, Augustus, Burton, DeWitt, Dolan, Glass, Greaves, Guido, Kohan, Macera, Murphy, O'Neill, Pinkston, Smith and Smith)

## **VI. PSB Standing Committee**

**A. Licensure Certification Criteria**

- The Executive Director commented that the next meeting is June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**B. Professional Development and Associated Compensation Criteria Committee**

- The Executive Director commented the committee will need to meet. No meetings have been held in the past months.

**VII. Other**

Proposed meeting dates for 2015-2016 School Year

**VIII. Public Comment**

None

**IX. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Ms. DeWitt and seconded by Dr. Guido to adjourn the meeting. ***The motion carried*** (15 Yes to 0 No's - Albanese, Augustus, Burton, DeWitt, Dolan, Glass, Greaves, Guido, Kohan, Macera, Murphy, O'Neill, Pinkston, Smith and Smith). The meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.